

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
(FONSI)**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION**

**LOS ANGELES NATIONAL CEMETERY  
950 S. SEPULVEDA BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90049**

**PLANNED CEMETERY EXPANSION**

**Introduction and Project Description**

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA) assessed the potential environmental impacts related to the planned expansion of the Los Angeles National Cemetery on approximately 13 acres of land already owned by the VA and currently operated by the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. The proposed expansion area under consideration is located along Constitution Avenue, approximately 400 feet west of the main entrance to the L.A. National Cemetery, in Los Angeles County, California. Sepulveda Boulevard, a four-lane urban street, and an elevated section of the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405) separate the proposed expansion area from the existing cemetery.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the regulations set forth by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500-1508) for implementing the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as VA guidance for implementing NEPA (Environmental Effects of VA Actions [38 CFR Part 26]). Based on the Environmental Assessment, the proposed expansion of the cemetery at the approximate 13-acre site resulted in a finding that no significant environmental impact would occur. The Environmental Assessment is incorporated into this Finding of No Significant Impact by reference. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The approximate 13-acre proposed expansion site currently consists of paved and unpaved areas for parking and equipment storage, a recycling center for the VAMC, and several single-story structures currently used as office space for VAMC staff. The site is bordered to the northeast by Interstate 405 (I-405), with Sepulveda Boulevard and the Los Angeles National Cemetery located further northeast of the site; to the southeast by Constitution Avenue and VA-owned property (some of which is leased for industrial and/or commercial purposes); to the southwest by Davis Avenue, Jackie Robinson Stadium and associated paved parking area (leased from the VA by UCLA), with VAMC facilities located further southwest of the site; and to the northwest by residential properties. Due to the limited acreage available in this densely developed area of southern California, the proposed cemetery expansion would consist of a columbarium-only burial option to allow the cemetery to reopen under the new NCA "Urban Initiative Program". Under this program, the NCA provides a limited burial option cemetery to veterans in high-density urban areas. A No-Action Alternative, in which the NCA would not expand to the approximate 13-acre site and therefore would not reopen for interment services for eligible veterans in the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area, was also evaluated as Alternative B in the Environmental Assessment.

The EA describes and analyses potential impacts on the environment that could result from the construction and operation of the cemetery expansion on the following areas: Aesthetics; Air Quality; Community Services; Cultural Resources; Economic Activity; Floodplains, Wetlands, Coastal Zone, etc.; Geology, Soils and Prime Farmlands; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use; Noise; Potential for Generating Substantial Controversy; Real Property; Resident Population; Solid/Hazardous Waste;

Traffic, Transportation and Parking; Utilities; Vegetation and Wildlife; and Burial Services to Veterans. Cumulative Impacts were also evaluated. Based on the results of the EA, the VA determined that there would be no significant impacts as a result of the proposed development of columbaria and memorial walls for the re-opening of the cemetery for interments.

### Public Involvement

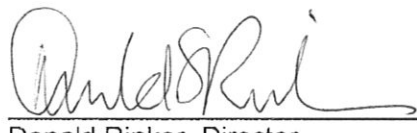
A Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Assessment for Planned Expansion of the Los Angeles National Cemetery was published in the Los Angeles Daily News on October 24 and October 27, 2010. Copies of the documents were available at the Los Angeles National Cemetery and the West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library. A copy was also published on the following public web site: <http://downloads.va.gov/files/CFM-TIL/LANCColExpEA/>. No comments were received concerning the proposed action.

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

After reviewing the Environmental Assessment for the proposed development of the expansion area for the Los Angeles National Cemetery, which is incorporated herein by reference, the implementation of the proposed action (Alternative A) as described, would not constitute a major federal action that would have significant impact upon the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Accordingly, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard A. Petersen, Team Director  
Office of Construction & Facilities Management  
Department of Veterans Affairs

2/2/11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald Rinker, Director  
Memorial Service Network (MSN) V  
National Cemetery Administration  
Department of Veterans Affairs

2-2-11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

### CONTACT INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LOCATIONS

Lynnette Parker, Cemetery Director  
Los Angeles National Cemetery  
950 S. Sepulveda Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90049  
(310) 268-4030  
Email: [lynnette.parker@va.gov](mailto:lynnette.parker@va.gov)

Katti Zand, Project Manager  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of Construction & Facilities Management  
811 Vermont Ave, NW, Room 539 (00CFM3B4)  
Washington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-8461  
Email: [katti.zand@va.gov](mailto:katti.zand@va.gov)